

REMARKS

Interview:

Applicant sincerely thanks the Examiner for conducting a telephonic interview with Applicant's undersigned representative. During the interview the Examiner indicated that the use of the terms "electrical connection" instead of "electrical contact" would place the claims in condition for allowance. Although Applicant feels that the terms "connection" and "contact" are synonymous, Applicant has taken the path of least resistance and has amended claims 1 and 5 as shown in the attached Appendix.

Claim Objection:

Claim 9 has been objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being in improper form. Applicant has amended claim 9 as shown in the attached Appendix. Applicant submits that claim 9 is now in allowable condition.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1 and 3-11 are all of the claims that have been examined in the above referenced application, and claims 1, 3-8 and 10-11 stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection – Claims 1, 3-8 and 10-11:

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-8 and 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the previously applied Bricaud reference.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 5 as shown in the attached Appendix, in accordance with the interview with the Examiner, discussed above. As indicated in the Examiner Interview Summary dated October 1, 2002, the above rejected claims are now in allowable condition.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/673,614

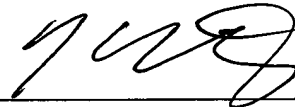
Our Ref.: Q61365
Art Unit: 2833

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Four Times Amended) A connector, comprising:

a spring contact, wherein said spring contact is substantially U-shaped and has first and second branches and a base joining said first and second branches at one end for forming said U-shape, and wherein each of said first and second branches complete an electrical connection ~~make electrical contact~~ with a device, characterized in that said first and second branches lie in two diverging planes and the intersection of said two planes is within the base of the U-shape, and

wherein one of said first and second branches and the base are coplanar.

5. (Five Times Amended) An electrical connector, comprising:

a first face,

a second face opposite said first face, and

at least one housing for receiving a spring contact and opening onto both of said first and second faces,

wherein said spring contact is substantially U-shaped and has first and second branches and a base joining said first and second branches at one end for forming said U-shape, each of said first and second branches complete an electrical connection ~~make electrical contact~~ with a device, characterized in that said first and second branches lie in

two diverging planes and the intersection of said two planes is within the base of the U-shape, and one of said first and second branches and the base are coplanar; and

wherein the spring contact is positioned in the housing so that the plane containing the base of the U-shape is substantially parallel to respective planes of the faces of the connector.

9. (Three Times Amended) A connector according to claim 5, including a plurality of housings each receiving a respective spring contact which is substantially U-shaped and has first and second branches and a base joining said first and second branches at one end for forming said U-shape, each of said first and second branches complete an electrical connection with a device, characterized in that said first and second branches lie in two diverging planes and the intersection of said two planes is within the base of the U-shape, and one of said first and second branches and the base are coplanar ~~according to any of claims 1 to 4~~, characterized in that the spring contacts in two adjacent housings are positioned so that they are substantially parallel but the opposite way round to each other, one of said first and second branches of one contact being adjacent the other of said first and second branches of the adjacent contact.

Claims 12-16 are added as new claims.